

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tire pressure monitoring system comprising:

a plurality of sensor units, each of which senses a tire pressure of each tire and sends a signal indicative of the sensed tire pressure and an identification code uniquely assigned to each sensor unit; and

a monitoring unit that receives the signal from the sensor unit and monitors the tire pressure based on the identification code contained in the signal and the sensed tire pressure, wherein

the monitoring unit has a register means for registering the stored identification code as an identification code of the sensor unit,

the register means receives a signal indicative of an identification code via an external device, stores the identification code, compares the identification code contained in the signal from the sensor unit with the stored identification code, and register the stored identification code as an identification code of the sensor unit.

2. The tire pressure monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein the register means compares the IDENTIFICATION code contained in the signal with the stored IDENTIFICATION code under a condition that a vehicle in which the tire pressure monitoring system is installed is traveling.

3. The tire pressure monitoring system according to claim 2,

further comprising a running state detecting means for detecting a running state of the vehicle, wherein the register means determines whether the vehicle is in the running state based on a signal received from the running state detecting means.

4. The tire pressure monitoring system according to claim 3, wherein the running state detecting means is a speed sensing means for sensing a speed of the vehicle.

5. The tire pressure monitoring system according to claim 3, wherein the running state detecting means is a temperature sensing means for sensing a temperature of the tire.

6. The tire pressure monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein:

the external device is a bar code reader; and
the signal received by the register means contains the identification code expressed in bar code

7. The tire pressure monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein:

the register means temporarily registers the identification code received via the external device as a temporarily registered identification code assigned to the sensor unit; and

the register means formally registers the temporarily

registered identification code as a formally registered identification code when the temporary registration of the identification code is completed for all sensor units.

8. A method for registering an identification code uniquely assigned to each sensor unit in a tire pressure monitoring system for a vehicle including a plurality of sensor units for sensing a sensor signal containing the sensed tire pressure and the identification code, and a monitoring unit for monitoring a tire pressure of each tire based on the identification code and the sensed tire pressure contained in the sensor signal, including:

inputting respective identification codes of the sensor units to the monitoring unit;

comparing the identification code contained in the sensor with one of the inputted identification codes;

determining whether a result of the comparison satisfies a predetermined condition; and

registering the inputted identification code as an identification code corresponding to the uniquely assigned identification code of the sensor unit when the result satisfies the predetermined condition.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the identification code used for the comparison is contained in the sensor signal sent from the sensor unit under a condition that the vehicle is traveling.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the registering step further including:

registering the inputted identification code as a temporarily registered identification code when the result of the comparison satisfies the predetermined condition; and

registering the temporarily registered identification code as a formally registered identification code when the step of registering the inputted identification code as a temporarily registered identification code is performed for all sensor units.